



APPLE CHAIN

Grade Level

K-3

Length of Lesson

45 minutes

Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will have a better understanding of the life cycle of an apple tree.

Materials Needed

- 2 Red Paper Plates (per student)
- Colored Construction Paper
- Templates
- Stapler and Staples
- Tape
- Yarn
- Hole Punch

StandardsCommon Core

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3; W.4.2

CCSS.Math.Content.4.MD.2

NGSS

K-LS1-1; 3-ESS2-1;
3-LS1-1; 3-LS3-1

Lesson Summary

This lesson is designed to help students in sequencing and building models as well as help them understand the life cycle of an apple.

Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Set Up: Print each template onto colored construction paper: seed (brown), tree (green), blossom (pink), bee (yellow), little apple (green). Cut out the shapes and then punch a hole on opposite sides of each template, except the seed which only needs one hole. Cut short strands of yarn-student will need five pieces each.
2. Read "[Apples to Oregon](#)" by Deborah Hopkinson to capture student interest.
3. Read through AITC Apple Ag Mag to learn about apples. Interactive online versions can be found on our website.
4. Complete the activity following the procedures:
 - Have students staple their 2 red plates together around 2/3 of the edge. Leave the other 1/3 open.
 - Have them tape one end of a piece of yarn to the inside of the stapled paper plates and extend the yarn out of the opening.
 - Add a stem to the red paper plates to make them look like an apple. Place this aside for now.
 - Ask students what shape is the start of a plant (seed). Then ask them what a seed grows into (tree). Use the yarn to tie these two shapes together. Repeat this until you get the chain completed.
 - Tuck the shapes into the red apple. Starting with the seed, slowly pull the shapes out of the apple and tell the story of how the apple grows.
5. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity. Pair students together and have them share their apple chain with their partner, telling the story of the apple life cycle!

TEACHER RESOURCES

Extension Ideas:

- Read “[From Seed to Apple](#)” by Anita Ganeri. Look at the pictures and have students analyze the images.
- Have students label each shape on their apple chain.
- Have students create a comic strip showing the apple life cycle.
- Have students tell a story from the apple’s perspective.
- Show a labeled diagram of an apple and/or apple tree.
- Introduce or teach about photosynthesis.
- Scientific Inquiry: Have students think more deeply about apple varieties. Do different types of apples taste different?
- Watch a time lapse video of an apple growing.
- Watch a video from a local farmer discussing apple growth and harvest.
- Take a field trip to an orchard and pick your own apples.
- Invite an apple farmer into the classroom.
- Have students research each step and write a paragraph explaining what happens at each phase. How long does each phase take?
- Measure and adjust the lengths of the yarn in between each shape to represent how long each phase takes.
- Take a closer look at bees and other pollinators. What is pollination? Why is it important for apples?
- Go to agintheclassroom.org to contact your County Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of our Ag Mags!











